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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/17618 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 20 August 1998 (20.08.98)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/918,661                      22 August 1997 (22.08.97)                      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> ABBOTT LABORATORIES [US/US]; CHAD 0377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500 (US).  <b>(72) Inventor:</b> BLACK, Lawrence, A.; 1173 Tamarack Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048 (US).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> WARD, Michael, J. et al.; Abbott Laboratories, CHAD 0377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> CA, JP, MX, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> PROSTAGLANDIN ENDOPEROXIDE H SYNTHASE BIOSYNTHESIS INHIBITORS		
<b>(57) Abstract</b>  The present invention describes pyridazinone compounds which are cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibitors, and in particular, are selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2). COX-2 is the inducible isoform associated with inflammation, as opposed to the constitutive isoform, cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1) which is an important "housekeeping" enzyme in many tissues, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the kidneys. The selectivity of these compounds for COX-2 minimizes the unwanted GI and renal side-effects seen with currently marketed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).		